

Hello,

Please vote No on HB5263. I have house rabbits as pets in my home and they are amazing companions who have been loyal, sweet friends and are not meant to be farmed as meat. I've had dogs and cats. Rabbits are between the two in friendliness and attachment. Everyone who visits is always surprised at how "dog like" they are. Unless you have been around a rabbit that's been properly cared for, you won't know how special they are.

My biggest concern is that the farming life for animals is not humane for rabbits. They like being around people or other bunnies, they need lots of space to run around and their diet is very complex. Not giving a rabbit these things is very cruel and it's just not possible for farmers to do this on a budget. It's not about the death as much as the poor life the meat bunnies would live. A few other items of why rabbit meat farming is cruel and not economical for farmers:

- 1- Rabbits are the third most common household pet after dogs and cats
- 2- Due to public pressure, Petco and PetSmart stopped selling pet rabbits. They now only display rescue rabbits for adoption – the same treatment they give to dogs and cats.
- 3-Whole Foods and other specialty stores stopped selling rabbit meat after concluding there was no market for sales.
- 4-The multi-billion-dollar cosmetic industry has been moving away from using rabbits and other animals in their testing programs due to consumer pressure.
- 5-While the rest of the country has recognized and elevated rabbits as pets, CT is taking a step backward in proposing this initiative.

Thank you very much,

Caitlin Tucker  
44 Reed Street  
Westbrook, ME 04092